Question Hour ....(*Interruptions*).... Now, let them not obstruct the proceedings of the House ....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): This is Parliament. The Opposition does not want any debate in this House ....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mishra, do you want to say something, something different?

SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA (Bihar): Sir, the point is a very serious question has come up before the House. It concerns all of us. Therefore, you please adjourn the House, consult the parties and decide the issue ....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the files concerned are there in the Deputy Chair- man's chamber. Let them peruse them first ....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the House for the day to have discussions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Foreign Exchange spent on Tourism Publicity

*221. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refere to answer to Unstarred Question No. 201 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th November, 1995 and state the amount of foreign exchange spent on tourism publicity during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 51.40 crores was spent on tourism publicity during 1994-95.

US Quota on Indian Woollen Garments

*222. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whather United States has rescinded its quota on woollen garments from India as recommended by WTO's Textile Monitoring Body;

(b) what steps Government have taken to ensure that the recommendations are implemented; and

(c) what have been the recommandations of textile Monitoring Body on categories 435 and 440 of garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) had recommended that the U.S. should rescind the restraints on the imports of category 434 products from India. The U.S.A. has since informed the Textiles Monitoring Body of the removal of restraints from category 434, in compliance of its recom- mendations.

(b) and (c) While holding a review of the restraint measures initiated by the U.S.A. in respect of category 435, the TMB had arrived at a consensus that there was no serious damage. However, the TMB had failed to arrive at a consensus on the issue of actual threat of serious damage. In respect of category 440, the TMB had held that there was an actual threat of serious damage.

Government of India had thereupon moved the TMB for another review of the matter in respect of categories 435 and 440. The TMB has recently reviewed the matter once again but it has not given any recommendations other than the conclusions it had reached in its earlier meeting.

Government is considering taking the matter to the Disputs Settlement Body.

External Aid

@*223. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) the gross external aid received in 1993-94, 1994-95 together with the projection for the current financial year;

(b) the gross revenue receipts for the above period;

(c) the figures for the repayment of principal debt servicing for the same period and what percentage does it constitute of revenue receipts;

@Previously Starred Question No. 23 postponed from 28.11.95.

(d) the international borrowings and debt liabilities each year during the past three years and projections for 1995-96 together with the repayments; and

(e) the gross amount of repayment of internal and external debt in 1993-94, 1994-95 and in 1995 and its percentage of the revenue receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) to (e) The information is given in the table below:

(Rs. Crore)

		1993-94	1994-95 R.E.	1995-96 B.E.
(a)	Gross external aid on Government account.	**10223**	**10602**	**11526**
	Cash and commodity grants.	993	1176	1154
	Loans.	9230	9426	10372
(b)	Gross revenue receipts	97748	113613	130175
(c) and (e)	Repayment of Principal (i+ii)	**63432** 58482	**62258** 56778	**70480** 64564
	(i) Internal debt and other liabilities (excluding discharge of 91 days treasury bills, Reserve funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions).			
	(ii) Repayment of external debt.	4950	5480	5916
(iii)	Percentage of (c) & (e) to (b)*	64.9%	54.8%	54.1%
(d)	Net internal borrowings and other liabilities raised during the year**	70969	60377	54481

* It may be noted that although percentage is given in (iii) above in answer to parts (c) & (e) of the Question, in fact, principal repayment of internal and external debt can be met from fresh borrowings, thus rolling over the debt. They do not have to be met from current revenue receipts. As such the percentage computed in (iii) above may not be an appropriate measure of debt burden.

** The figure for 1992-93 is Rs. 41941 crore.

International Monetary Fund

*224. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether International Monetary Fund has urged India to reduce its federal and State deficit and broaden tax base etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to initiate any corrective measures as desired by IMF; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL):

(a) to (c) Fiscal consolidation has been at the heart of the Government's policy of macroeconomic adjustment and reform initiated in 1991. With this in view, the Central Government fiscal deficit has been brought down from 8.4 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to about 6.2 per cent in 1994-95. Containing the fiscal deficit, both Central and State, is the foremost task before the Government as highlighted by the Finance Minister while presenting the Union Budget speech. All observors of India's reform programme, including the IMF, agree that fiscal consolidation is the key to the success of India's programme that will lead to sustained high growth. Government is taking all possible corrective measures to reduce expenditures and increase revenues so that the objective of reducing fiscal deficit is achieved.